

WISCONSIN PARENTAL CHOICE PROGRAM (WPCP/Statewide)

WPCP Facts and Figures for 2019-20 As of October 2019

In October 2019, there were 254 private schools participating in the WPCP, with a total enrollment of 9,764 students or 9,419.3 full-time equivalent (FTE) in the program.* The 2019-20 WPCP state aid payment for a student enrolled full-time in the WPCP in grade kindergarten through eight is \$8,046 and \$8,692 for a student enrolled full-time in grade nine through twelve. The program is estimated to cost \$77,300,000 in 2019-20.

Act 55 (Wisconsin 2015-17 Biennial Budget) changed the manner in which the WPCP is funded. Students that participated in the program prior to the 2015-16 school year will continue to be fully funded from state general purpose revenue. Pupils who begin attending a private school under the WPCP in the 2015-16 school year and thereafter are referred to as “incoming pupils.” All choice pupils participating in the WPCP must identify their resident public school district (the public school district where they reside on the 3rd Friday in September). State law requires Wisconsin public school districts to have their state general aid reduced by an amount equal to the amount paid by the state to participating private schools attributable to the incoming pupils residing in the district.

If a resident public school district does not receive general aid payments sufficient to cover the incoming choice pupil aid reduction, the balance would be reduced from other state aids received by the district. Incoming pupils in the WPCP are included in their resident public school district’s membership for state general aid purposes in the following year. Districts may not levy to backfill the aid reduction. However, they receive a non-recurring revenue limit exemption equal to their general state aid reduction. For the 2019-20 school year, no more than 4% of pupils residing in a public school district may participate in the WPCP. There were 10,976 students eligible to be included in the statutorily required random drawing conducted by the department in May for districts with more applications than the 4% limit or for schools with more applicants than seats available. There were 1,035 students selected in the drawing that are not participating in the program. As of the 3rd Friday in September (September 20, 2019), there were 20 students on private school waiting lists and 157 students on the WPCP waiting list due to the 4% public school district limit. The department is required to fill a seat from a district’s waiting list if a choice student leaves a school and the choice enrollment falls below the 4% limit.

Table 1 shows the WPCP enrollment by grade level. The number of students listed in the table is reported by headcount and FTE. For example, a four-year-old kindergarten student may be counted as 0.5 or 0.6 FTE.

TABLE 1
WPCP 2019-20 Enrollment by Grade Level*

<u>Grade Level</u>	3rd Friday in September 2019	
	<u>Headcount</u>	<u>FTE</u>
4 Year-Old Kindergarten	646	332.7
5 Year-Old Kindergarten	1,114	1,082.6
1st Grade	1,128	1,128.0
2nd Grade	991	991.0
3rd Grade	747	747.0
4th Grade	693	693.0
5th Grade	581	581.0
6th Grade	594	594.0
7th Grade	551	551.0
8th Grade	460	460.0
9th Grade	736	736.0
10th Grade	689	689.0
11th Grade	482	482.0
12th Grade	352	352.0
Totals	9,764	9,419.3

* These are unaudited numbers as of October 2019 and are subject to change.

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Table 2 provides the total number of students in the WPCP by where (and if) they were enrolled in school in 2018-19.

TABLE 2
2019-20 WPCP Students' Prior Year Enrollments*

2018-19 Enrollment	3rd Friday in September 2019			
	Headcount**	% of Headcount	FTE	% of FTE
Wisconsin Private School	7,703	78.89%	7,674.8	81.48%
Wisconsin Public School	1,042	10.67%	1,038.1	11.02%
No School	765	7.83%	453.4	4.81%
Homeschooled	205	2.10%	204.0	2.17%
Out of State	49	0.50%	49.0	0.52%
Totals	9,764	100%	9,419.3	100%

* These are unaudited numbers as of October 2019 and are subject to change.

** Of the 7,703 students enrolled in private school in 2018-19, 6,338 (6,322.7 FTE) participated in the WPCP. Of the remaining 1,365 students (1,352.1 FTE) enrolled in a private school in 2018-19, 316 (303.1 FTE) students applied to kindergarten, 217 students applied to first grade and 368 students applied to ninth grade for the 2019-20 school year, and the remaining 464 students applied to other grades under the law for combined governing board agreements.

Table 3 provides the total number of students on the WPCP waiting list for the 2019-20 school year due to the 4% public school district limit.*

TABLE 3
2019-20 WPCP Waiting List and School District 4% Limit**

School District	Number Students on WPCP Waiting List	School District 4% Limit
Athens	2	17
Marion	1	19
Reedsville	18	26
Watertown Unified	42	154
West Allis-West Milwaukee	94	330
Total Students	157	

* These are unaudited numbers as of October 2019 and are subject to change.

**There are also 20 students on the WPCP waiting list due to schools limiting the number of seats available. The 20 students are not included in Table 3.